His Majesties
MOST GRACIOUS
SPEECH,
Together with the
Lord Chancellors,
To both Houses of
PARLIAMENT,
On *Munday* the 21st of *October*, 1678.

By His Majesties Special Command.

LONDON,
Printed by *John Bill*, *Christopher Barker*, *Thomas Newcomb*, and *Henry Hills*, Printers to the Kings most Excellent Majesty, 1678.

His Majesties
MOST GRACIOUS
SPEECH,
Together with the
Lord Chancellors,
To both Houses of
PARLIAMENT,
On Tuesday the 21st of October, 1679.

LONDON,
Printed by John Bill, Christopher Barker, Thomas Newcomb, and Henry Hills, Printers to the Kings most Excellent Majesty, 1679.

His Majesties

Most Gracious

SPEECH.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I *Have thought the time very long since We parted last; and would not have deferred your Meeting by so many Prorogations, if I could well have met you sooner.*

The part which I have had this Summer in the Preservation of Our Neighbours, and the well-securing what was left of Flanders, *is sufficiently known, and acknowledged by all that are abroad: and though for this cause I have been*

obliged to keep up my Troops (without which Our Neighbours had absolutely despaired) yet both the Honour and Interest of the Nation have been so far improved by it, that I am confident no man here would Repine at it, or think the Money Raised for their Disbanding, to have been ill employed in their continuance; and I do assure you I am so much more out of Purse for the Service, that I do expect you should supply it.

How far it may be necessary (considering the present State of Christendom) to reduce the Land and Sea Forces, or to what degree, is worthy of all Our serious considerations.

I now intend to acquaint you (as I shall always do with any thing that concerns Me) that I have been informed of a Design against my Person, by the Jesuits, of which I shall forbear any Opinion, lest I may seem to say too much or too little, but I will leave the Matter

to

to the Law, and in the mean time will take as much Care as I can to prevent all manner of Practiſes by that ſort of Men, and of others too who have been tampering in a high degree with Foreigners, and contriving how to introduce Popery amongſt us.

I ſhall conclude with the Recommending to you my other Concerns.

I have been under great Diſappointments by the Defects of the Poll-Bill.

My Revenue is under great Anticipations, and at the beſt, was never equal to the conſtant and neceſſary Expence of the Government, whereof I intend to have the whole State laid before you and require you to look into it, and conſider of it, with that Duty and Affection, which I am ſure I ſhall always find from you.

The reſt I leave to the Chancellor.

THE Lord Chancellors SPEECH To both Houses of PARLIAMENT.

My Lords, and you the Knights, Citizens, and Burgesses of the House of Commons,

HOw much the King relies upon the Advice and Assistance of His Parliament, How Necessary He counts it to Him, and How safe He thinks Himself in it, is Evident by this, that He hath not suffered You all this Year to be out of His Reach, but hath continued You from Time to Time by a Succession of little and short Prorogations. And without all peradventure we had sooner met, if it had been possible for us to take Right Measures here, without a full Knowledge of the State and Condition of our Neighbours.

The

The Close and Period of the Last Session is very Memorable, for it may seem perhaps to some to have ended with very Different, if not contrary Counsels and Supplies, tending both to War and Peace: But yet they who look more nearly into the matter, shall find that this Incertainty proceeded not from any Unsteadiness at Home, but from the Mutability of Affairs Abroad, Every Week almost producing several and contrary Appearances.

The same Incertainties of Counsels and Events abroad continu'd for the most part of the Summer. One while the Parties Exhausted by the War seemed to be willing to accept any Peace their Enemies would give; and there wanted not those among them who made use of the Impatience of their People to Necessitate them to it.

Another while the performance of the Conditions offer'd, became so Doubtful, and was at last Explain'd in a manner so Vastly Different from the first Proposals, that Despair begot new Resolutions of Continuing the War. In

In the midst of these miserable Perplexities and Confusions, His Majesty was Daily sollicited with the Highest Importunities, and the most Earnest Supplications that were possible, not to Disband the Troops he had raised; And not only so, but that He would still continue to send over more and more of his Troops, and to Augment the Forces which he had already Abroad.

They did as good as tell Him plainly, That it was from the Reputation of his Alliance that any Overtures of Peace had been made at all, and that it was from the Continuance of His Arms that any fair performance could be expected.

They pray'd His Majesty to consider, That if He thought it Expedient to Obtain some Kind of Respit or Breathing-time for the *Spanish Netherlands*, or to secure any kind of Frontier or Barrier, between them and their too Powerful Neighbours; All this and more, very much more, perhaps no less

then

then the ſafety of Chriſtendom, would Entirely depend upon His Majeſties preſerving Himſelf in that Conſiderable Poſture both by Sea and Land, wherein He then was.

There was no Reſiſting ſuch Repeated Interceſſions; and though His Majeſty ſaw well enough that his Complying with theſe Deſires would engage Him in an Expence far beyond what He was then Provided for, yet He could not poſſibly Decline the Charge, nor refuſe to undergo the Difficulties. And now, whatever the Coſt of all this may amount to; Yet neither His Majeſty nor His People will have any Cauſe to repent it, when they ſhall conſider that it hath already produced ſuch great and good Effects to His Majeſties Allies, and ſo much Honour to the whole Nation, that whatſoever is ſav'd of *Flanders*, is now acknowledged by all the World, to be wholly due to His Majeſties Interpoſition.

And though the Peace which

ſince hath followed; be very far from ſuch a Peace as His Majeſty could have wiſht, Yet 'tis ſuch a Peace as His Neighbours were Reſolv'd to have; No Obligations they lay under to inſiſt upon a better Peace, No Conjunction with His Majeſty, No nor the Offers to Declare War on their behalfs, if they deſired it, could prevail with them, or keep them from being wrought upon by the ill Arts of thoſe who firſt raiſed unreaſonable Jealouſies amongſt them, and then caus'd them to precipitate themſelves into a Peace.

Thus you ſee at once, not onely the Neceſſity which His Majeſty had to Continue His Troops in Pay, but likewiſe the Benefits and Advantages which have come of it.

Let no man wonder then, if the Money given toward this Disbanding have been applied toward the Payment of the Army as far as it would go. There needs no Excuſe for that which was inevitable.

The Proviſion which was made for

for Paying off the Army, went no further than till the last of *June* for Part, and the last of *August* for the Rest; But the Fleet was provided for only till the Fifth of *June*, so that the Continuation of the Fleet and Army from that Time was wholly upon His Majesties Charge.

And as this was an Expence so absolutely Necessary to our own Interest, in the Preservation of our Neighbours, that His Majesty could not with any Honour or Safety to Himself have avoided it: So the Service which hath been done by this means to a great part of Christendom, is so universally acknowledged, that you cannot but be well pleased to have your share in the Honour of it, and be willing to Defray the rest of the Charge, which hath far exceeded all that was given by that Act.

And His Majesty hath found Himself in greater Straits then He could have imagined, by the unexpected Deficiency of the *Poll-Bill*: For whereas it was made a

Fonds

Fonds of Credit for Three hundred thouſand Pound, beſides a further Credit for Stores, The Product of that Act hath fallen ſo ſtrangely ſhort of what the Parliament expected from it, that it hath not raiſed that Sum of Money by a great deal, which was allowed to be borrowed upon it; And by this Means they who have furniſht Stores upon the Credit of that Act, will be in danger to be very great Loſers, unleſs you are pleaſed to take ſome Care of them.

Thus you have ſhortly an Account of what hath been doing Abroad, and the Charge of it; 'Tis now high Time to look a little nearer Home; And ſurely in that State of Things to which they are now reduced, 'tis Viſible and plain enough what muſt be our Buſineſs for the time to Come.

First, We muſt look to our ſelves, and provide for our own ſafety: For that which the Confederates acknowledge with Thanks,

We

We may be sure hath a quite different Refentment in other Places. And in order to this Care muſt be taken to ſtrengthen Our ſelves both at Home and Abroad, that they who ſee us in a Firm and well ſettled Eſtate, may have no hopes to Surprize, nor any Temptation to make an Attempt upon us. And herein it will be neceſſary to take notice of what His Majeſty hath recommended to you, and to Weigh very well the Importance of Reducing the Sea and Land Forces, and the Conſequences which may attend ſuch a Reducement: For this be aſſur'd, that nothing in the World would more gratifie our Enemies, then to ſee us afraid of maintaining our ſelves in a Poſture of Defence, which is the onely Poſture they are afraid to find us in.

And that the Fears of Popery may not too much diſquiet you, Be pleaſed to Conſider that you have one Security more, Since that which was always the Intereſt

of His Majesties Honour and Conscience, is now become the Interest of His Person too, to Protect the Protestant Religion, and to Prevent the Swarming of Seminary Priests. For His Majesty hath told You, that He hath lately received Information of Designs against His own Life by the *Jesuits*. And though he doth in no sort Prejudge the persons accus'd, yet the strict Enquiry into this matter hath been a means to discover so many other unwarrantable Practices of theirs, that His Majesty hath reason to look to them.

Nor are these kind of men the onely Factors for *Rome*; but there are found among the Laity also some who have made themselves Agitators to promote the Interests of a Foreign Religion, who meddle with Matters of State and Parliament, and carry on their Pernicious Designs by a most dangerous Correspondency with Foreign Nations.

What kind of Process the Proof will bear, and to how high a Degree the Extent and Nature of these Crimes

Crimes will riſe, is under Conſideration, and will be fully left to the Courſe of Law.

In the next place, Let us carefully avoid all Differences amongſt Our ſelves, all manner of Claſhing about Juriſdictions, and all Diſputes of ſuch a Nature as can never end in any Accommodation. For this is ſtill what our Enemies would wiſh, who would be glad to ſee us Ruin'd, without their being at the Charge of it.

And therefore we muſt now above all other Times Labour to ſhew the World the moſt effectual Significations of our Loyalty and Duty, that we are able to expreſs: For nothing in the world can more diſcourage our Enemies, as on the contrary nothing does or can ſo Ripen a Nation for Deſtruction, as to be obſerv'd to Diſtruſt their own Government. Be pleas'd then now to take occaſion to manifeſt ſuch a Zeal for the Government, as to look into the State of that Revenue which ſhould ſupport the Conſtant and

Neceſſary

Necessary Charge of it, and to see that it be made Equal to it.

There are many Motives to oblige us to this Inspection; First you see the King Expects it, And then again you cannot but see, that Nothing is or can be of a more Publick Consideration, then to support the Dignity of the Crown, which is in truth the Dignity of the Nation: Besides 'tis unjust as well as Dishonourable, that the Kings Revenue should fall short of His most necessary & most unavoidable Expences.

And if upon a due Examination it shall be made appear to you, that though there had been no Diminution of the Customs, yet no Thrift or Conduct in the world could ever make the Revenue able to answer the certain Charge of the Government, much less to discharge those Anticipations which lie heavy upon it: How can it be possible for it to supply those Contingencies which happen even in Times of Peace, and which can never be brought under any Regulation or Establishment.

You

You may be ſure, a Great and Generous Prince would be glad, by good Managery, to have wherewithall to Exerciſe His Royal Bounty. But our Neighbours have found a way to prevent all that: For their Vaſt Preparations put His Majeſty upon a Vaſt Expence, to preſerve Himſelf and us.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

You now find the King involv'd in Difficulties as great, and, without your Aſſiſtance, as inſuperable, as ever any Government did labour under.

And yet His Majeſty doth not think that there need many words to beſpeak your Zeal and Induſtry in His Service: For the things themſelves now ſpeak, and ſpeak aloud. The Publick and the Private Intereſt do both perſwade the ſame Things, and are, and ought to be mighty in Perſwaſion.

If the Honour and Safety of

your Countrey, and, which is next to that, the Concerns of your own Families and Posterities, cannot awaken your utmost Care to preserve that Government which onely can preserve you and yours, all other Discourses will be to no purpose.

There can be no Difficulties at all to them who take Delight in Serving of the King and their Countrey, and love the Occasions of shewing it.

Such are All Here. But though the King have had for many Years a large and full Experience of your Duty, yet there never was a Time like this to trie your Affections.

There is so strange a concurrence of ill Accidents at this time, that 'tis not to be wonder'd at, if some very honest and good men begin to have troubled and thoughtful Hearts. Yet that which is infinitely

nitely to be lamented, is, That malicious men too begin to work upon this occaſion, and are in no ſmall hopes to raiſe a Storm that nothing ſhall be able to Allay.

If you can Reſcue the Kings Affairs from ſuch a Tempeſt as this; If you can Weather this Storm, and Steer the Veſſel into Harbour; If you can find a way to quiet the Apprehenſions of thoſe who mean well, without being carried away by the Paſſions of others, who mean ill; If you can prevent the Deſigns of thoſe Without-doors, who ſtudy nothing els but how to diſtract your Counſels, and to diſturb all your Proceedings: Then you will have perform'd as Great and as Seaſonable a piece of Service to the King, as ever yet He ſtood in need of.

And when the World ſhall ſee, that nothing hath been able to diſappoint the King of the Aſſi-

Assistance He had reason to hope from this Session, but that there is a Right understanding between the King and his Parliament, and that again strengthned and increased by New Evidences of your Duty and Affection, and raised above all possibility of being interrupted.

Then shall the King be possessed of that true Glory which others vainly pursue, the Glory of Reigning in the Hearts of his People. Then shall the People be possess'd of as much Felicity as this World is capable of; And you shall have the perpetual Honour and Satisfaction of having been the Means to procure so much solid and lasting Good to your Country, as the Establishment of the Peace and Tranquillity of this Kingdom, and consequently of all His Majesties Dominions.

FINIS.